

Detailed Claim Listing

The following is a detailed listing of all claims that are, ore were, pending in the present application. Please cancel claims 1-10 and 15-23 and add new claims 24-43 as set forth in this detailed listing.

1-10. **(Cancelled)**

11. **(Withdrawn)** A method of providing heart assistance to a patient using a percutaneous gas-line having a first gas-line part, adapted to be wholly implanted, and a second gas-line part, adapted to be part implanted and part external, connected to the first gas-line part, the method including the steps of: (1) recognising a persistent exit-site infection; (2) disconnecting the second gas-line part from the first gas-line part; (3) removing the second gas-line part from the patient; and; (4) connecting a sterile second gas-line part to the first gas-line part wherein the fresh second gas-line part is inserted through a fresh exit-site that is remote to the infected exit-site.

12. **(Withdrawn)** The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the fresh second gas-line part is inserted through an implant tunnel that is also substantially remote from the existing implant tunnel.

13. **(Withdrawn)** The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein after step (3), the first gas-line part is sealed and wounds are closed to allow healing to occur.

14. **(Withdrawn)** A gas line for connecting an inflatable heart assist actuator to a driver therefore, the gas line having a first end operatively connected to the inflatable actuator and a second end connectable, directly or indirectly through an extension gas line, to the driver for the heart assist actuator, the gas line having attached to it an ECG lead, the ECG lead having a first end adapted for connection to the heart of a patient and a second end adapted for connection to the driver or a controller for the driver, the attachment between the gas lead and the ECG lead being such that they are adapted to pass through the skin of a patient as a single element.

15-23. **(Cancelled)**

24. **(New)** A percutaneous gas line for an implantable medical device, the gas line comprising:

- (a) a first gas line comprising a first end configured to be sealably coupled to the medical device and a second end;
- (b) a connection fitting configured to be disposed entirely within a patient's body, wherein the connection fitting is configured to be sealably coupled to the second end of the first gas line; and
- (c) a second gas line comprising:
 - (i) a first end configured to be sealably and removably coupled to the connection fitting; and
 - (ii) a subcutaneous anchoring collar coupled around an outer surface and along a length of the second gas line, wherein the collar is positioned in spaced relationship with the first end of the second gas line such that the collar is configured to be disposed within the patient's body when the first end is coupled to the connection fitting.

25. (New) The percutaneous gas line of claim 24, wherein the second gas line further comprises

- (a) an opening defined in the first end, wherein the opening is in communication with a lumen defined within the second gas line, wherein the opening is substantially coaxial with the gas line; and
- (c) an end portion defined between the first end and the subcutaneous anchoring collar, wherein the end portion extends from the connection fitting in a substantially coaxial configuration.

26. (New) The percutaneous gas line of claim 24, wherein the second gas line comprises a second end sealably and removably coupled to an external driver.

27. (New) The percutaneous gas line of claim 24, further comprising an ECG lead incorporated into the first gas line or the second gas line, wherein the ECG lead comprises a first end coupled to a control system and a second end configured to be positioned within the patient's body.

28. (New) The percutaneous gas line of claim 24, wherein the connection fitting comprises a Luer-lock gas-tight fitting.

29. (New) The percutaneous gas line of claim 24, wherein the subcutaneous anchoring collar comprises a fluffy polyester.

30. (New) The percutaneous gas line of claim 24, wherein the subcutaneous anchoring collar has a length ranging from about 20 mm to about 50 mm.

31. (New) A percutaneous gas line for an implantable medical device, the gas line comprising:

- (a) a first gas line comprising a first end configured to be sealably coupled to the medical device and a second end;
- (b) a connection fitting configured to be disposed entirely within a patient's body, wherein the connection fitting is configured to be sealably coupled to the second end of the first gas line; and
- (c) a second gas line comprising:
 - (i) a first end configured to be sealably and removably coupled to the connection fitting; and
 - (ii) an opening defined in the first end, wherein the opening is in communication with a lumen defined within the second gas line, wherein the opening is substantially coaxial with a longitudinal axis of the gas line.

32. (New) The percutaneous gas line of claim 31, further comprising a subcutaneous anchoring collar disposed along a length of the second gas line, wherein the collar is positioned in spaced relationship with the first end of the second gas line such that the collar is disposed within the patient's body when the first end is coupled to the connection fitting.

33. (New) The percutaneous gas line of claim 32, further comprising an end portion defined between the first end and the subcutaneous anchoring collar, wherein the end portion extends from the connection fitting in a substantially coaxial configuration.

34. (New) The percutaneous gas line of claim 32, wherein the subcutaneous anchoring collar has a length ranging from about 20 mm to about 50 mm.

35. (New) The percutaneous gas line of claim 31, wherein the second gas line comprises a second end configured to be sealably and removably coupled to an external driver.

36. (New) The percutaneous gas line of claim 31, further comprising an ECG lead incorporated into the first gas line or the second gas line, wherein the ECG lead comprises a first end coupled to a control system and a second end configured to be positioned within the patient's body.

37. (New) The percutaneous gas line of claim 31, wherein the connection fitting comprises a Luer-lock gas-tight fitting.

38. (New) A percutaneous gas line for an implantable medical device, the gas line comprising:

- (a) a first gas line comprising a first end configured to be sealably coupled to the medical device and a second end;
- (b) a connection fitting configured to be disposed entirely within a patient's body, wherein the connection fitting is configured to be sealably coupled to the second end of the first gas line; and
- (c) a second gas line comprising:
 - (i) a first end configured to be sealably and removably coupled to the connection fitting;
 - (ii) a subcutaneous anchoring collar coupled around an outer surface of the second gas line along a length of the second gas line, wherein the collar is positioned in spaced relationship with the first end of the second gas line such that the collar is configured to be disposed within the patient's body when the first end is coupled to the connection fitting; and
 - (iii) an opening defined in the first end, wherein the opening is in communication with a lumen defined within the second gas line, wherein the opening is substantially coaxial with a longitudinal axis of the gas line.

39. (New) The percutaneous gas line of claim 38, further comprising an end portion defined between the first end and the subcutaneous anchoring collar, wherein the end portion extends from the connection fitting in a substantially coaxial configuration.

40. (New) The percutaneous gas line of claim 38, wherein the second gas line comprises a second end configured to be sealably and removably coupled to an external driver.

41. (New) The percutaneous gas line of claim 38, further comprising an ECG lead incorporated into the first gas line or the second gas line, wherein the ECG lead comprises a first end configured to be coupled to a control system and a second end configured to be positioned within the patient's body.

42. (New) The percutaneous gas line of claim 38, wherein the subcutaneous anchoring collar comprises a fluffy polyester.

43. (New) The percutaneous gas line of claim 38, wherein the subcutaneous anchoring collar has a length ranging from about 20 mm to about 50 mm.